

Applicant: Single Buoy Moorings, Inc.

AFS ID NO: 207,633

Title: BEARING ELEMENT

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Bearing ~~(25,26)~~ comprising a rotation axis ~~(27)~~, a rotation body ~~(7, 8, 61, 61')~~ concentric with and rotatable around said axis ~~(27)~~, the rotation body defining a circumferential trajectory ~~(T)~~ around said rotation axis ~~(27)~~, a curved slide member ~~(22, 23, 23')~~, supported on the rotation body ~~(7, 8, 61, 61')~~ and slidable along said rotation body along the circumferential trajectory ~~(T)~~, the slide member ~~(22, 23, 23')~~ comprising an abutment surface ~~(28, 29)~~ extending substantially in a direction transverse to the rotation axis ~~(27)~~, a shear element ~~(21, 21', 21")~~, supported on the rotation body ~~(7, 8, 61, 61')~~ along a part of the circumferential trajectory, and comprising an outer layer ~~(33)~~ and an inner layer ~~(34)~~ movable with respect to each other around the rotation axis ~~(27)~~, the inner layer ~~(34)~~ being fixedly connected to the rotation body and an abutment surface ~~(30, 32)~~ substantially extending in a transverse direction, and a housing part ~~(13)~~ rotatable around said axis ~~(27)~~ and fixedly connected to the slide member ~~(22, 23, 23')~~ and to the outer layer ~~(33)~~ of the shear element ~~(21, 21', 21")~~, wherein, upon rotation of the housing ~~(13)~~ around said axis ~~(27)~~, the slide member is moved along the rotation of the circumferential trajectory until the slide member abutment surface ~~(28, 29)~~ contacts the shear member abutment surface ~~(30, 32)~~ and a rotational force is transmitted from the housing ~~(13)~~, via the abutment surfaces ~~(28, 29, 30, 32)~~ to the inner layer ~~(34)~~.
2. (Currently Amended) Bearing ~~(25,26)~~ according to claim 1, wherein the shear element ~~(21, 21', 21")~~, comprises at least one metal layer and one elastomeric layer.
3. (Currently Amended) Bearing ~~(25,26)~~ according to claim 1, wherein the housing ~~(13)~~ at least substantially surrounds the slide member ~~(22, 23, 23')~~.
4. (Currently Amended) Bearing ~~(25,26)~~ according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the rotation body comprises a bushing ~~(51, 61, 61')~~ supported on an axis.
5. (Currently Amended) Bearing ~~(25,26)~~ according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the rotation member comprises a cylindrical shaft ~~(7,8)~~.
6. (Currently Amended) Bearing ~~(25,26)~~ according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~

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claim 1, wherein a load of more than 1000 kg is attached to the housing (13) exerting a compressive force on the shear element (21, 21', 21'').

7. (Currently Amended) A universal joint (1) comprising two mutually perpendicular bearings (65, 66) according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.

8. (Currently Amended) An offshore construction (62) comprising a floating body, at least two support arms (65, 66) on the floating body, each support arm having a base part (69) and transverse arm (66) part pivotally connected to the base part in a first hinge joint (70), the transverse arms carrying a deck structure via a support member (64), attached to the support arm (65, 55) via a second hinge joint (71), wherein at least one of the first and second hinge joint (70, 71), comprises a bearing according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1.